

**THE PHYSIOLOGICAL BASIS OF MEDICAL PRACTICE—A Text in Applied Physiology.** Charles Herbert Best, C.B.E., M.A., M.D., D.Sc.(Lond.), F.R.S., F.R.C.P. (Canada), Professor and Head of Department of Physiology, Director of the Bantin-Best Department of Medical Research, University of Toronto; and Norman Burke Taylor, V.D., M.D., F.R.S.(Canada), F.R.C.S.(Edin.), F.R.C.P. (Canada), M.R.C.S.(Eng.), L.R.C.P.(Lond.), Professor of History of Medicine and Medical Literature, University of Western Ontario. The Williams and Wilkins Company, Baltimore, 1955. 1357 pages, \$12.00.

This time-tested and standard text on applied physiology is again recommended as a link between basic medical science and the practice of medicine. It contains a great mass of information readily available for the student of clinical medicine, the intern and the practitioner with a scientific bent.

Despite the fact that the present edition has had considerable change, the reviewer feels that the revision is still patchy and not extensive enough. The section on the endocrine glands may be cited as an example of too little alteration in the text and particularly in the illustrations. One sees the same pictures, including the same old outworn extreme abnormalities, often badly reproduced, that were present in the first edition of 1937.

In view of the value and the stature of this book we hope that the next edition will show even more improvement.

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**MYOCARDIAL INFARCTION—Its Clinical Manifestations and Treatment with Anticoagulants—A Study of 1,031 Cases.** Irving S. Wright, M.D., Charles D. Marple, M.D., and Dorothy Fahs Beck, Ph.D., Report of the Committee on Anticoagulants, American Heart Association. Published for the American Heart Association by Grune & Stratton, New York, 1954. 656 pages, \$8.50.

This massive monograph presents a final report which demonstrates again that, during a cooperative study under the direction of the Committee on Anticoagulants, certain patients with myocardial infarction who received anticoagulants had a lower mortality rate than others who were not so treated. Extensive documentation gives evidence which convinces the authors that this beneficial effect may be attributed to the use of anticoagulants rather than to other factors in the management or selection of patients. Inasmuch as such factors bear on prognosis after myocardial infarction, the validity of the authors' conclusions depends upon their demonstration of random selection of patients during this clinical trial. Unusually detailed analyses are presented to establish this point. In the end, the reader must judge for himself whether the analyses and correction factors for certain differences between control and treated groups are valid. The committee is to be congratulated for completing its monumental task.

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**MANUAL OF HAND INJURIES.** H. Minor Nichols, M.D., Clinical Instructor in Surgery, University of Oregon Medical School. The Year Book Publishers, Inc., 200 East Illinois, Chicago, 1955. 352 pages, \$9.50.

This manual fulfills the need of a less ponderous text encompassing most of the commonplace injuries of the hand. Thus, it has value to general practitioners, surgeons, and students. The book has been carefully done and covers most salient points in the primary care of injury. It is garnished by a chapter on anatomy and one on general technique, including preoperative and postoperative care. At the end of the book, a chapter on secondary tendon repair and another on elective and reconstructive procedures serve as an introduction to the more complicated and extensive problems in this field.

Dr. Nichols, known personally by the reviewer, has had a wealth of experience and takes a practical approach to the problem of rehabilitating the injured hand.

**RECENT ADVANCES IN MEDICINE AND SURGERY—Vols. I and II—(19-30 April 1954).** Based on Professional Medical Experiences in Japan and Korea 1950-1953. Army Medical Service Graduate School, Walter Reed Army Medical Center, Washington, D. C., Medical Science Publication No. 4. Superintendent of Documents, U. S. Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D.C. \$1.75.

These two volumes represent complete notes of a course entitled "Recent Advances in Medicine and Surgery," conducted by the Army Medical Service School, 19 to 30 April 1954. The faculty was selected from surgeons who actually performed large numbers of operations under battlefield conditions, individuals concerned with public health and preventive medicine responsibilities, and internists concerned with large numbers of cases of hepatitis, malaria and other diseases.

The authors emphasized the difficulties they had and the mistakes they made as they gained experience in evacuation, management of early wounds and personnel problems. Also they were confronted with a new disease, epidemic hemorrhagic fever, in enormous numbers of cases, without having had any practical experience in its management. A novel approach to the solving of this latter problem, as well as many other medical field problems, was enthusiastically and effectively managed by moving experts in their respective fields from Walter Reed Army Medical Center, plus groups of civilian medical specialists, to the field treatment centers in Korea.

These two volumes would be of value to any practicing physician because they are authoritative and cover many of the problems doctors would be confronted with in case of a national disaster.

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**A TEXTBOOK OF NEUROLOGY.** H. Houston Merritt, M.D., Professor of Neurology, Columbia University. Lea & Febiger, Philadelphia, 1955. 746 pages, 181 illustrations and 128 tables, \$12.50.

This is a new textbook of neurology by an author who belongs to the relatively younger generation of specialists in this field. In order to justify its existence it must have virtues not possessed by the fairly numerous texts which have undergone the refinement of passing through a number of editions. These, in the opinion of the reviewer, are present. Primarily, the whole approach to the subject is modern, and does not show the piecemeal revision that is inherent in an older book periodically brought up to date. The various diseases of the nervous system are arranged as much as possible according to etiology. This is an advantage to the student, and coupled with the excellent index provided is in no way disadvantageous to the physician using the book as a reference work. The subject is treated exclusively from the clinical standpoint, anatomical data and the technique of examination being introduced only where necessary to clarify a particular point. In all, this is a useful addition to the list of neurological texts, and can be recommended to student and physician alike.

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**MODERN TREATMENT YEARBOOK 1955—A Yearbook of Diagnosis and Treatment for the General Practitioner.** Edited by Sir Cecil Wakeley, Bt., K.B.E., C.B., LL.D., M.Ch., D.Sc., F.R.C.S., F.R.S.E., F.R.S.A., F.A.C.S., F.R.A.C.S., Fellow of King's College, London; Senior Surgeon, King's College Hospital. Published for the Medical Press by Bailliere, Tindall & Cox, Ltd., Distributed in U.S.A. by Williams and Wilkins Company, Baltimore, 1955. 344 pages, \$6.00.

This 337 page book is composed of 36 monographs on modern treatment by British authors. It is the 21st volume in the yearbook series edited by Sir Cecil Wakeley.

In general, it is well done and can be recommended to the American reader who would like to explore a little beyond the "beaten path."